

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1371

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Middle Tennessee State University upon obtaining a Confucius Institute.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those extraordinary organizations who, through their abiding commitment to cross-cultural communication, have strengthened our relationships with other nations; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) has recently been approved to host one such prestigious organization, the Confucius Institute, on its campus; and

WHEREAS, the Confucius Institutes are non-profit public institutions that aim to promote Chinese language and culture and support local Chinese teaching internationally; their headquarters is in Beijing and is under the Office of Chinese Language Council International, known colloquially as Hanban; and

WHEREAS, MTSU President Sidney A. McPhee recently hosted a ceremonial signing of the Confucius Institute agreement with representatives from its Chinese partner institution, Hangzhou Normal University in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China; instrumental in the development of MTSU's proposal for the institute was Dr. L. Diane Miller, interim Executive Vice President and Provost, who joined with President McPhee in greeting the Chinese delegation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Guanping Zheng, Associate Professor in the Department of Electronic Media Communication in MTSU's College of Mass Communication, will serve as Director of the institute for MTSU; and

WHEREAS, as part of its outlined services, the Confucius Institute at Middle Tennessee State University (CIMTSU) will develop Chinese language and cultural classes, provide Chinese language teaching resources, train teachers to teach Chinese as a foreign language, offer a Chinese Proficiency Test and certification of Chinese language teachers, provide China-related

library resources, promote research about contemporary China, and provide services and consultation to Middle Tennessee and the State on matters related to Chinese culture and language; and

WHEREAS, the students and staff of the CIMTSU will surely prove to be of the highest caliber and will represent their school, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America with honor, ability, and integrity, and this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to congratulate MTSU upon this new endeavor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Middle Tennessee State University upon obtaining a Confucius Institute and extend to President Sidney A. McPhee, Dr. Guanping Zheng, and the staff and students of the CIMTSU our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.